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## LAND FOR PARK PURPOSES UNTIL VIADUCT IS BUILT

Parks Committee Recommends That Several Lots on Drumsab Road at Castle Frank Be Purchased and Held Until Needed for Construction of Viaduct—Toronto Symphony Orchestra Gets \$2,500—Controller Foster Wants Another New Man.

An evidence of the confidence felt at the city hall that the Bloor-street viaduct will be an accomplished reality in the near future, was seen at the meeting of the parks committee yesterday afternoon, when it was unanimously agreed to recommend that the city purchase a number of lots on Drumsab-road, at Castle Frank, to be used for park purposes until the building of the viaduct is under way, when these lots will be needed for that purpose.

The matter was brought forward by the assessment and parks commissioners, both of whom recommended that the city purchase lots numbers 8 to 17, inclusive, on Drumsab-road, which could be obtained for the sum of \$80,000. It was argued that they would have to be acquired to build the viaduct and could be bought cheaper now than in the future. In the meantime the land could be used for a park, for which purpose it is admirably suited. The committee decided to recommend that debentures be issued for the purchase of the property. The land lies on a small plateau immediately west of Ravine-drive. The lots are owned by William McEldin and Col. Davidson.

**Favor Hunter Scheme.** The committee put themselves on record as in favor of the city accepting R. Home Smith's offer regarding the Hunter Valley park and boulevard scheme. The following motion by Ald. Wanless was passed by the committee: "That this committee, realizing the future value of the Hunter River park and boulevard to the City of Toronto as part of the parks system of Greater Toronto, hereby advise the city council to accede to the terms and conditions of R. Home Smith's agreement, embodied in the final agreement, provided the agreement effectually safeguards

afternoon, but only routine business was dealt with.

**Controller Foster** stated yesterday that he intended moving at the board of control's meeting to-day, that a new head of the combined works and waterworks departments be secured at a salary of \$10,000 a year. He purposes to make the new official an executive head, who would be responsible for the department's work.

**Medical Information.** With the object of getting information as to what accommodation is given for contagious diseases by other cities the size of Toronto, the medical health department have addressed a large number of letters to the health departments of the large American, English and continental cities. The department have asked for statistics giving the number of deaths from contagious diseases, and the number of cases reported during the last five years, and also the number of cases in the hospitals at the time the letter is received. Various miscellaneous information is also asked for. It is hoped that this information will be of service to the department in their efforts to improve the methods and accommodation in the Toronto hospitals. When the replies are received, the data will be tabulated and submitted to the Academy of Medicine. The idea originated with Dr. W. L. T. Addison, 451 Broadview-ave.

**Case of Smallpox.** At 10 o'clock yesterday morning the medical health department learned of a case of smallpox at the residence of B. Kelsey-st. Immediately the matter was investigated, and a woman was found suffering from the disease in a mild form in a dwelling where there were 23 other inmates, of whom nine were children. The patient was sent to the Swiss Cottage, and the house was immediately put under quarantine, which will not be lifted for 14 days. In the meantime the inmates will all be vaccinated.

**PORTER'S DAMAGES FIXED.** Will Get \$8000 From Toronto Railway Company for Permanent Injury.

Charles H. Porter, barrister, who brought suit for \$50,000 damages against the street railway for injuries in a car collision, was awarded \$8000 by a jury in the civil assize court yesterday. As a result of the accident, one of Porter's legs is shorter than the other, necessitating the use of crutches. The company admitted liability, and a special jury was empaneled to assess the damages.

## RACING CHARTERS AUTHORIZED BY HOUSE

Continued From Page 1.

and other members of the opposition on the ground that it legalized two charters which were granted on March 13, by the present government under the Companies Act, which charters, it was claimed, had been "refused" by the former secretary of state. When the bill was called in the house for the third reading, Hon. Dr. Pugsley moved again his amendment to the effect that the new law should come into force on March 1 instead of March 23. The two charters in question were granted on March 13.

**Held Over Two Years.** In support of his amendment, Dr. Pugsley stated that he had been informed that by a decision of the high court of justice of Ontario no writ of mandamus could issue to compel the local authority to incorporate a racing association. These two charters, which had been granted on the 13th of March, under the Companies Act, had been applied for two years ago, but were really so broad in their character that the secretary of state considered that they ought not to have been granted. The bill, by the terms of its date of coming into force, legalized these charters and prevented provincial authorization of racing associations subsequent to the arbitrary date set forth in the federal bill.

The minister of justice, in reply,

stated that neither of these applications had been refused by the former secretary of state, Hon. Chas. Murphy, and quite correctly so in view of the decision of the courts. Indeed the deposits of the associations had been retained by the government, proving that there had been no refusal of the applications.

**Shirked, Says Doherty.** "Hon. members who are so indignant to-day," continued the minister of justice, "had it in their power to do what we are doing to-day. They were not then so concerned about public morality. Why did they not absolutely refuse these applications for racing associations, instead of keeping the deposits of the applicants and shirking their responsibility as a government by seeing to it that the law was made clear in this respect?"

"Their virtuous indignation to-day is magnificent, but it will deceive no one conversant with the facts. It was kept to be poured out in vials of wrath upon this succeeding administration, which attempted to right a wrong that they allowed to remain in abeyance. The late government did not refuse to grant these two racing charters because, under decision of the courts they could not refuse."

"But why the delay of five months in coming to the decision?" said Dr. Pugsley. "Until the hon. gentleman explains his government's delay of two years in dealing with the matter, I submit that it does not lie in his mouth to ask why we did not move in the four or five months during which we have been in power," said Hon. Mr. Doherty. "We gave this matter our consideration in due course, but we had many other matters to attend to."

**Foster's Mission.** In answer to a question by G. W. Kyle (Richmond, N. S.), the premier stated that the government had nominated the minister of trade and commerce (Mr. Foster) to represent Canada on the empire trade commission, vice P. C. Larkin of Toronto. He did not think the work of the commission would take up the whole of the minister's time.

The two Grand Trunk Railway bills were again held up pending the road's implementing its agreement to take back its men who have been out since the strike. Vice-President Kelly of the G.T.R. is expected in Ottawa to-morrow morning to confer with the government in the matter.

Hon. C. J. Doherty's bill to amend the Judges Act, providing for an additional judge of the exchequer court, two additional judges each for the high court of Ontario, the superior court of Quebec, the Manitoba court of appeal and court of King's bench and the Alberta supreme court, and

one additional judge for the Saskatchewan district court, was read a second time and put thru committee. A further provision of the bill fixes a minimum of ten years' experience at the bar as a qualification for the judges on their appointment.

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**Swans Carried Over Falls.** NIAGARA FALLS, Ont., March 25.—(Special.)—Old silver men say more swans are here this year than have visited Niagara at one time in the past two decades. Many are killed by being carried over the cataract. Twenty-three dead swans were taken from the river below the falls to-day.

**Nervous Wreck After Fire.** NIAGARA FALLS, Ont., March 25.—(Special.)—Mrs. Ellen Whalen, occupant of the Logan Block, where two lives were lost in the fire a week ago, was taken to the hospital to-day in a serious condition. She is suffering a complete nervous breakdown as a result of her terrible experience on the morning of the fire.

## JAMES LEITCH DEAD

Son of Chairman of Railway Board Ill Only a Few Days.

James Newark Leitch, son of Chairman Leitch of the Ontario Railway Board, died in his 26th year on Sunday morning, at the home of his parents in Dunbar-road. He had been suffering from pleurisy for only a few days. Last spring Leitch graduated from Toronto University, having taken honors in applied science, and also carried away honors after the previous year with the degree of civil engineer. The remains will be taken to Williamstown, Glenagarry, on Wednesday night.

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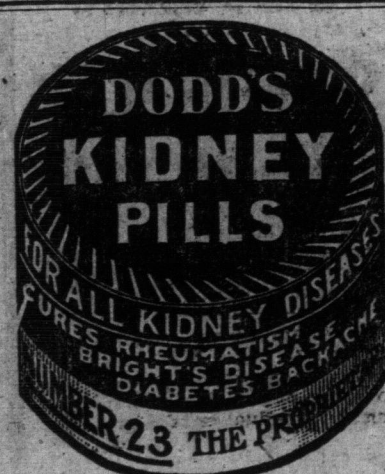
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